United Nations S/2002/1328

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 December 2002

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (for the period 18 May 2002 through 5 December 2002)

I. Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during the last seven months pursuant to the mandate contained in Security Council resolution 350 (1974) and extended in subsequent resolutions, most recently resolution 1415 (2002) of 30 May 2002.

II. Situation in the area and activities of the Force

2. During the period under review, the ceasefire in the Israel-Syria sector was maintained and the area of operation of UNDOF remained generally quiet, except in the Shab'a farms area (Area 6) as mentioned in my reports on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). UNDOF supervised the area of separation by means of fixed positions and patrols to ensure that military forces of either party were excluded from it. The Force also carried out fortnightly inspections of equipment and force levels in the areas of limitation. Liaison officers from the party concerned accompanied the inspection teams. As in the past, both sides denied inspection teams access to some of their positions and imposed some restrictions on the Force's freedom of movement.

3. The Force continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with facilities for mail and the passage of persons through the area of separation. Within the means available, medical treatment was provided to the local population on request. During the last seven months, UNDOF assisted in the crossing of 969 students and 450 pilgrims. In addition, UNDOF provided protection at two weddings.

4. In the area of operation, especially in the area of separation, mines continued to pose a threat to UNDOF personnel and local inhabitants. Through the Minefield Security Programme, initiated with the cooperation of the Syrian authorities, numerous known as well as previously unidentified minefields in the area of separation were identified and marked. UNDOF also supported the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to promote mine awareness among the civilian population.

02-72396 (E) 101202

5. The Force Commander and his staff maintained close contact with the military authorities of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. Both sides generally cooperated with the Force in the execution of its tasks.

6. As of 30 November 2002, UNDOF comprised 1,060 troops, including national support elements, from Austria (372), Canada (191), Japan (45), Poland (357), Slovakia (94) and Sweden (1). In addition, 78 military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assisted the Force in carrying out its tasks. A map showing the deployment of the Force is attached to the present report.

III. Financial aspects

7. By its resolution 56/294 of 27 June 2002, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $40.8 million gross, equivalent to $3.4 million gross per month, for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. Should the Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 December 2002, as recommended in paragraph 12 below, the cost of maintaining the Force will be limited to the amounts approved by the Assembly.

8. As at 15 November 2002, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNDOF special account for the period from the inception of the Force to 31 December 2002 amounted to $21 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $1,510 million.

IV. Implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973)

9. The Security Council, while deciding in its resolution 1415 (2002) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of seven months, until 31 December 2002, also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately resolution 338 (1973), and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and, in particular, the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement resolution 338 (1973) were dealt with in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East (A/57/470), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 56/31 and 56/32 of 3 December 2001.

V. Observations

10 The situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained generally quiet. UNDOF, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the ceasefire called for by the Security Council and the agreement on disengagement between Syrian and Israeli forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the cooperation of the parties.

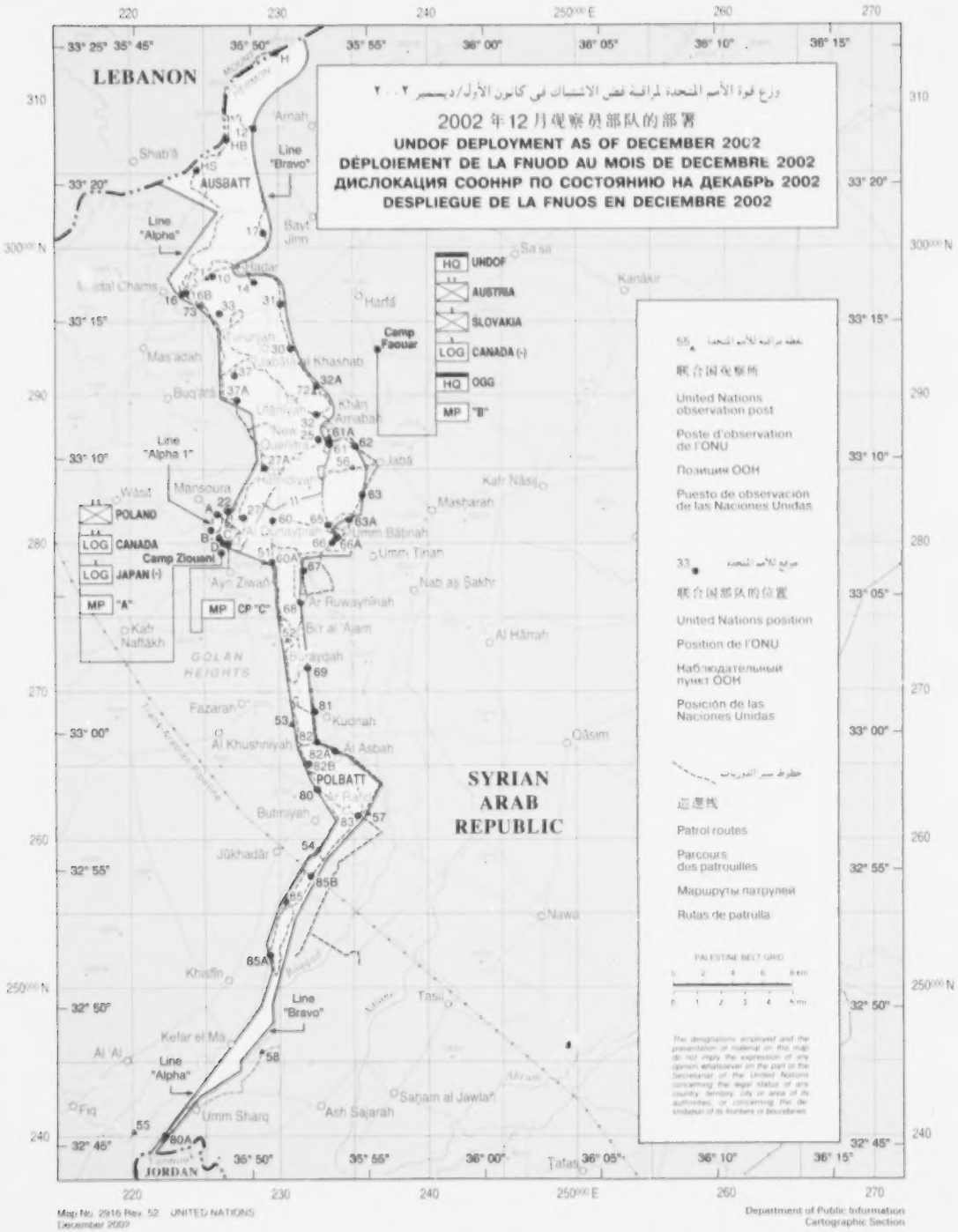
11. Nevertheless, the situation in the Middle East is very tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just

and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973).

12. Under the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 30 June 2003. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

13. In making this recommendation, I must draw attention to the shortfall in the funding of the Force. At present, unpaid assessments amount to some $21 million. This sum represents money owed to the Member States that contribute the troops who make up the Force. I appeal to the Member States to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear all remaining arrears.

14. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major General Wranker and to the men and women serving with UNDOF. They have performed with efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those that provide the UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force.


وزع قوة الأمم المتحدة لمراقبة فض الاشتباك في كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٢
2002 年 12 月观察员部队的部署
UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF DECEMBER 2002
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE DECEMBRE 2002
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СООННР ПО СОСТОЯНИЮ НА ДЕКАБРЬ 2002
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN DICIEMBRE 2002
LEBANON
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
JORDAN
Line "Alpha"
Line "Alpha 1"
Line "Bravo"
AUSBATT
POLBATT
Camp Faouar
Camp Ziouani
HQ UNDOF
AUSTRIA
SLOVAKIA
LOG CANADA (-)
HQ OGG
MP "B"
POLAND
LOG CANADA
LOG JAPAN (-)
MP "A"
MP CP "C"
United Nations observation post
Poste d'observation de l'ONU
Позиция ООН
Puesto de observación de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations position
Position de l'ONU
Наблюдательный пункт ООН
Posición de las Naciones Unidas
Patrol routes
Parcours des patrouilles
Маршруты патрулей
Rutas de patrulla
PALESTINE BELT GRID
The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Map No. 2916 Rev. 52 UNITED NATIONS December 2002
Department of Public Information Cartographic Section